

Abstract

METHOD TO TREAT AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) results in the formation of new blood vessels in the eye. The walls of these vessels leak fluid, which causes scarring in the surrounding tissue, resulting in reduced vision or loss of vision. Photodynamic therapy (PDT) alone has been used to treat AMD, but many retreatments are needed, which cause further damage to the already diseased area. Laser treatment to coagulate the fluid actually causes additional new vessels to form. However, the inventive method of treating patients with both PDT and laser coagulation surprisingly either improved vision, or prevented further loss of vision. Moreover, the combined treatment eliminated the need for retreatment, and did not generate new vessel growth. Laser coagulation and PDT may be administered within the same treatment session or either may be administered first and the other may be administered within ninety days.